

Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee
Minutes of February 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Barry Vanmeter (acting chairman) in the absence of Lynn Schmitt (chairman).

Those in attendance were Barry Vanmeter (acting chairman), Michelle Landon, Marianne Biviano, Jeff Stevens, Gary Lofton (Board of Supervisors), Kevin Alderman, Michelle Springer, and 10 people in the audience.

First on the agenda was correction/approval of the November 3, 2014 minutes. Michelle L. made a motion to approve the minutes. Marianne seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Barry handed out a budget flow chart for Fiscal Year 2016 to those in attendance. The chart included income for lots, expense projection, and the balance of the Reserve Fund. Without an increase we are proposed to begin to deplete the fund rapidly. Residents were then given a chance to speak about the proposed \$30 increased fee for Improved Lots and the \$10 increased fee for Unimproved Lots. Questions that were raised are how much uncollected revenue is there from unpaid fees? The response was not sure would have to talk to the Frederick County Treasurer for that information. Another question was what could be done about collecting delinquent fees and selling those lots? This would also be a question for the Treasurer. Gary Lofton said that he would talk to the treasurer about the delinquent fees and what would be the best course of action. A question was asked why the budget numbers do not add up. The response was that the budget is fluctuating all the time. The budget is much like a checking account. Any money that is not used at the end of the fiscal year goes right back into the reserve fund. A resident asked if the budget was bare bones and the response was yes it is. She then responded by saying that we have to have at least 1 year's budget in the reserve fund. She said that we need to build a buffer and plan ahead. She said that an auction on the delinquent lots would help out the reserve fund. The response was that the increase in the fees is to try to build a buffer in case we would run into needing to a new piece of equipment or mechanics of equipment issues. The idea of an increase each year will be done on a year by year basis. Michelle L. made a motion to approve the \$30 increase on Improved Lots and \$10 increase on Unimproved Lots, Marianne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The committee makes a motion to endorse the budget that Kevin had presented.

Next on the agenda is the Fishing Derby. There was discussion on how we wanted to pursue with it. The floor was opened to hear opinions. Some issues that we are having are the Cherokee Lake level is low so we will not be putting fish in there. There is also a problem with outsiders coming into Shawneeland to fish. Michelle L. and Lynn had discussed to put 75 trout in each pond. A question was asked to Anna, the coordinator of the Fishing Derby about how many kids participated? Her response was between 36 to 45 kids every year. The most she has had was 48. Michelle L. made a motion for 75 trout in each pond, motion passed unanimously.

Next was the Council House. There have not been any updates from the subcommittee. Ruth spoke and said there is no longer a project manager. Ruth had spoken to Betsy Fields, Manager of the North Shenandoah Valley Branch of Preservation, VA and she said that they had offered to set up an account for any money raised for the Council House. Rod Williams had drafted an Acceptable memorandum of Understanding. Betsy then made changes to it and sent it back to Rod but has since not received any response. Barry said the back wall is in a state of collapse. He asked Gary if he had heard anything from the county and He said no. The question was opened to the audience on what to do with the Council House. A response was to put out a flyer to see if anyone in the community is interested in heading the subcommittee. Another response was to donate it to the Fire Department for a controlled burn. Michelle L. says this has been going on since 2013. She thinks it is past time and nobody will benefit from it. Marianne says who is going to come up with the money to maintain the Council House and is the county going to give it to the Historical Society. Some other concerns were safety, cost, insurance, liability, and financial burden. Gary said that the county would be willing to sell the structure very cheap. Jeff said to tear it down and put up something that the community could use. Residents brought up that there are other structures like this in Shawneeland. Also there has already been work put into the project so why not stabilize it to buy time to find a use for the structure. Barry is not predisposed either way. He said the problem of not knowing what is going on due to getting second hand information. Gary suggested giving a short window to allow someone to chair the subcommittee and come up with a concrete plan for the structure. Anna will be willing to find out what information she can on what has been done already on the Council House. Barry suggested posting a flyer for anyone who is interested in being the chairman for the subcommittee. They will need to contact the SSDAC chairman ASAP. There will be a final decision made at the next quarterly meeting pending a new chairperson.

Next is the Cochise Trail Closure. There has been a safety issue brought up about people having near misses where it intersects with Maple Trail. A resident asked about the turn around, he doesn't want people to use his driveway. The answer it will be made into a cul-de-sac. The resident also raised the question about access in bad weather. Another resident raised the possibility of shaving off the hill. This would be a big undertaking of a job. Marianne made a motion to close Cochise where it intersects with Maple, Michelle L. seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next is the Manager's Report. Kevin said that until November 26 the crew worked on clearing ditches. We have had like 30 days of snow or ice, so that is where our concentration has been. Once the weather breaks we want to get back to cutting some of the trees that we marked back in the spring. On to the Spillway Improvement, the spillway itself has been completed. The siphons still need to be repaired; hopefully this will be completed in early spring. The pipe was replaced and lowered 8" to meet the new state regulations. The valves on the siphons have worn over time and need to be replaced. The estimate for the job is \$10,000. A guardrail of 150ft. will be installed along the road by the spillway. A question was raised about the road along Tomahawk being raised up from the ditch instead of going into the ditch causing issues when the water freezes. Kevin said that the engineer designed the road that way. He said that it would take a lot of asphalt but can certainly check into it.

Next is New Business. A resident raised the question of collecting delinquent taxes. Gary said that he will speak to the County Treasurer. Another resident said that she would like to see the meetings posted 10 days prior to the meetings and if it is tore down , that it be replaced. She would also like to see contact information gathered for all residents and given to the secretary. This could create a database to send out the manager's report and other SSDAC information to all residents. A resident said that the agenda and minutes are on the Frederick County website. It was then stated that the agenda and minutes are 3 months behind. Barry said that this is the current process. A statement was made that residents may not want their personal information to be given out.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.